



## NORTHEAST LICC REPORT 11/03



**First Steps Facilitator: Harriet Foiles**

**Regional LICC status: October 2003**

*Active LICCs: 11 representing 22 counties*

*Inactive LICCs: 1 representing 1 county*

*LICCs in development: 8 representing 8 counties*

**Primary Outcomes of LICCs:**

- Public awareness
- Resource development
- Provider recruitment
- Quality assurance of services
- Community outlet for early childhood support for families and professionals
- Child find
- Legislative advocacy
- Collaboration among agencies

**Summary of activities and accomplishments: All LICCs continue to collaborate with their SPOE and receive monthly update of SPOE activities:**

**Cooper/Howard Co.: put together informational packets for physicians and agencies and will be distributing them in November.**

**Jefferson Co.: workshop on Communicating Effectively with Health Care Professionals and presentation from Capable Kids, a 0-3 program through Community Partnerships.**

**Montgomery Co.: Hosted a luncheon for all service coordinators and service providers; manned a booth at the Montgomery County Family Fun Fair; submitted a First Steps/LICC article to county paper.**

**St. Charles Co.: Focus has been placed on developing leadership within the LICC, focusing on the commitment of the group members, partnership with DMH, DESE and the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board (SB 40) and core issues including sharing/networking opportunities, public awareness/education, legislation and DESE; legislators have been invited to the October and November meetings.**

**Lincoln Co.: Held the annual county-wide Fun Fair to help promote First Steps.**

**Boone Co.: Members participated in presentations to an MU special education class and the local chapter of Council for Exceptional Students to share First Steps information; planning a presentation for University Hospital Grand Rounds in January.**

**Randolph Co.: Disseminating First Steps brochures to Parents As Teachers open house in Moberly and Huntsville school districts and will distribute brochures at an open house for Little Dixie Regional Libraries; drafted Memorandum of Understanding with the SPOE.**

**St. Louis City/County: LICC has reconvened and is reorganizing.**

**Northeast: Participated in Health Fair in Schulyer County**

### **Summary of identified needs or concerns:**

- No supervision from state level for SPOE or SC
- Developmental Therapists are underutilized.
- Some service coordinators are increasing services right before transition to ECSE.
- The amount of time it takes for CFO to send authorizations to providers to start services. It takes about two weeks.
- If unlicensed speech therapists are allowed to serve children, there should be evidence of appropriate training to serve dysphagia.
- Transition meetings are not being held six months ahead.
- Some schools do not understand need for transition meeting or what transition means.
- There needs to be transportation reimbursement to prevent providers from dropping out and encourages providers to enroll.
- What can we do to help the CFO tap into other funding resources.
- There are many billing problems. In some cases it takes twelve pages to bill one child. Many authorizations are changed several times a month. We are concerned that providers are leaving the system because of all the paperwork need to bill. Recruitment of providers is affected because they have heard about the difficulties in billing.
- Accessing of some services is not possible because they are no longer available; ex. is parent advisor for hearing and visually impaired.
- Is it reasonable to expect a reply from webreply to take a month.
- The CFO is not responding to inquiries through their web site. When they are called, they are very helpful.
- What are the guidelines for what is acceptable and not acceptable as assistive technology. The recent listserve message did not provide enough guidance.
- In SPOE training participants were told there would be a statewide public awareness campaign including posters, public service announcements. What is the status.
- There is a need for audiologists, dieticians, and developmental therapists with experience in addressing behavioral concerns.
- There is concern about the amount of time it is taking families to get into First Steps because there aren't enough intake coordinators.
- Training is not adequate to meet needs of providers.
- Communication about what is happening in the system with providers and SPOEs is lacking.
- There is inconsistency in getting responses from DESE to inquiries by phone, email, or webreply.
- Parents are not treated with respect when they contact DESE.

### **Key points and significant information to provide SICC**

- **In Cooper/Howard there continues to be a lack of knowledge about First Steps.**
- **Jefferson Co. is short an Intake Coordinator for the southern region.**
- **Lincoln Co. has begun implementing Public Awareness Campaign by speaking at WIC clinics.**